

ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHWEST REGION

SW 6020.2K

3/29/01

SUBJ: GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION IDENTIFIERS

- 1. PURPOSE.** This order provides procedures for requesting Q-symbol and alternative location identifiers and transmits a listing of currently assigned identifiers for the Southwest Region.
- 2. DISTRIBUTION.** This order is distributed to the branch level in the Airway Facilities Division and to all Airway Facilities field offices.
- 3. CANCELLATION.** Order SW 6020.2J, Geographical Location Identifier - "Q" Symbols, dated April 28, 1988, is cancelled.
- 4. BACKGROUND.** Location identifiers for facilities are required for use in most reporting and data collection systems. Primary responsibility for assignment of identifiers for navigational aids and certain air traffic communication facilities remains with the Air Traffic Service (ATS). The Airway Facilities Division assigns "Q" symbol/alternative identifiers to those locations where the ATS has no actual need for a descriptive three-letter identifier. In some cases when the ATS assignment is delayed, a symbol/alternative identifier may be assigned in the interim. Location identifiers are required when facilities are entered into the Facilities, Services, and Equipment Profile (FSEP).
- 5. EXPLANATION OF CHANGES.** This order has been updated to reflect current organizational and program titles.
- 6. REPORT PREPARATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONTENT.**
 - a. **The Resource Management Branch, ASW-420,** will issue the report on an annual basis, and the report will have the same distribution as this order.
 - b. **The report lists all Q-symbol identifiers in use** in the FSEP, as well as those for sites at which future installations are planned.
- 7. PROCEDURES.**
 - a. **When a Q-symbol identifier is required,** the request may be made to ASW-420, Attention: Human Resource Platform, ASW-424.
 - b. **System Management Offices (SMO) should use FAA Form 6000-12,** Change Document - Facilities Master File - On-Line Update Form, as prescribed in Order 6000.5C, Facility, Service, and Equipment Profile, to provide for entry of facilities/services with a "Q" symbol/alternative identifier into the FSEP.

c. **If the Q-symbol/alternative identifier was a temporary one**, the permanent identifier must be entered in the FSEP when assigned. An example of the entries required is shown in Order 6000.5C.

8. LOCATION IDENTIFIER. This is a three or four-character alphanumeric code established by ATS for a specific location, airport, or facility. Most navigation and communication facilities have location identifiers assigned, which are listed in the latest edition of Order 7350.6, Location Identifiers. If a facility is a type which does not of itself require a location identifier for air traffic purposes but is located at or near a site which does have a location identifier assigned, the facility in question will use that identifier.

9. "Q" SYMBOLS. These are three-letter codes with "Q" as the first letter, assigned by the Regional FSEP Program Manager, to a facility for FSEP reporting and for which either ATS has not assigned a location identifier or the use of such identifier is not applicable. Each region has been assigned a discrete block of "Q" symbols which are to be used in accordance with the following paragraphs, provided the particular symbol has not been used by that region within the preceding 2 years.

a. **If a facility is located at a site which does not have, and is not expected to have, a location identifier** available, a "Q" symbol will be assigned. If, at a later date, a location identifier is made available, the "Q" symbol shall be changed accordingly.

b. **If a facility is located at or near a site which is to be assigned a location identifier**, but such identifier cannot be made available soon enough for FSEP reporting purposes, a "Q" symbol is to be assigned for temporary use.

c. **A "Q" symbol** should be regarded as being assigned to a location and not exclusively to a specific facility.

10. ALTERNATIVE IDENTIFIERS. Due to additional remote facilities being established, some regions have depleted their block of "Q" symbols. As with the "Q" symbols, the alternative identifiers will be assigned by the Regional FSEP Program Manager.

a. **Specific numbers** are assigned to each region to be used in assigning three-letter identifiers when "Q" identifiers are not available. The numeric assigned to Southwest Region is "2".

b. **The following principles will apply** when assigning the new three-letter identifiers:

- (1) A two-letter alphabetical prefix will be assigned starting with AA to ZZ.
- (2) The regional designed numeric will be assigned as a suffix to each alphabetical prefix.
- (3) The scheme of numbering will be: AA2, AB2, AC2...AZ2, BA2, etc.

11. SUFFIX. A suffix may be required to identify a specific facility when the same "Q" symbol or alternative identifier has been assigned to two or more facilities of the same type at the same location. Facilities, which have unique location identifiers (such as air navigation facilities), require suffixes in their identifications. Other facilities, however, such as remote communication installations, etc., sometimes require suffixes in their identifications. The following principles will apply in the assignment of suffixes:

a. **Suffixes will be assigned** alphabetically and once assigned, the suffix becomes part of the location identifier code and is permanent for that specific facility identification.

b. **If facilities of a given type require the same "Q" symbol or alternative identifier**, the first facility will not be assigned a suffix. Additional facilities; however, will be assigned a suffix in alphabetical order regardless of whether the earlier facilities remain in operation.

c. **If all letters of the alphabet have been assigned as suffixes to a specific identifier**, you may use earlier assignments if the location identifier/suffix has been out of use for a period of not less than 2 years.

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